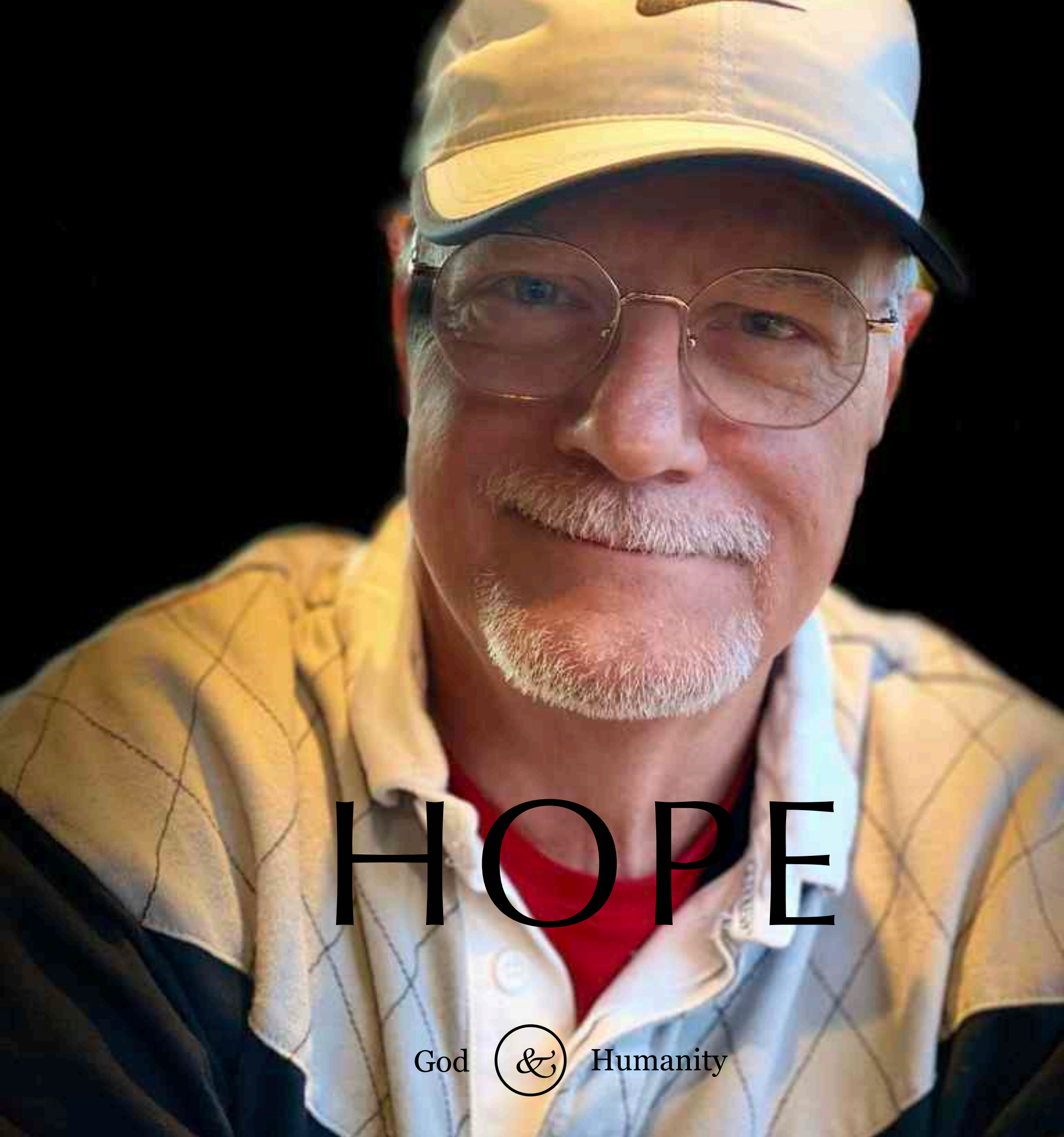




HOPE

God & Humanity



HOPE

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From the desk of your friend in Christ Jesus,

Dean Chicquette 04/28/2020



HOPE

in what God can do as you rest in Him.

Celebrate God prepared to meet life in you as well as with you.

*“There is one body and one Spirit,
just as also you were
called in one HOPE
of your calling;”*

(Ephesians 4:4 NAS77 emphasis mine)



WE ARE CONSIGNED TO HOPE BY

the author of every promise.

We have all heard of the man falling off a precipice in the middle of a pitch black night who grabs hold of a root and dangles there for quite some time calling out, “Help me! Can anyone help me?”

Soon, but not too soon, a voice calls back saying, “I can help you.” To which the man asked, “Who are you?” The voice answered, “Jesus your Savior.” All excited the man continued, “Great, what should I do?” The voice replied, “Let go!” With some pause, the man then exclaimed, “Help, help! Is there anyone else up there that can help?” After a long silence and totally exhausted the man had no choice but to let go and to his surprise, he fell no more than six inches.

Where he could have trusted and exhibited his HOPE in Jesus’s

words, he depended on his own strength and soon discovered Jesus’s assessment was valid from the start.

For many years after I had heard and acted on the ‘voice’ of God saying, “Let go”, I discovered I had no HOPE. I had, had HOPE, but chunk by chunk it had been chiseled away by acting in my own strength and rediscovering the limits of self-improvement. I literally was living without HOPE in this world. Why? Because, unlike some, I would not celebrate failure. Missing the mark was missing the mark no matter how close to the mark I came. So I would just try harder. Reading the ‘Animal Farm’ and the demise of the horse didn’t help either.

Then a friend in very dire straits and with insistence leveled



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with me and said, “I have nothing else but HOPE.” Again, reiterating, “Without HOPE, I have n-o-t-h-i-n-g!”

Maybe it was her 30 years of working as a Psychologist without producing HOPE that caught my attention. She had returned to her childhood faith in God, and found HOPE waiting. That encounter was a turning point for me. But the journey back to a HOPEful life would take another ten years.

*“...remember that you were at that time **separate from Christ**, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no HOPE and without God in the world.**”*

(Ephesians 2:12 NAS77 emphasis mine)

Over time I re-discovered faith, HOPE , and love were intertwined. My trust in God had to be total before I had a HOPE that didn't smack of desperation. Then, after resting in HOPE for some time, a love birthed peace that passes explanation. It took hold of my soul as I hunkered down into the arms of Jesus re-discovering overflowing love. There I simply trusted Him. It was not a hyper-distrust in myself, but just a huge HOPE that what He says is coming to pass. Yes even in this life. Right now! This is it!